

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 02948 190818Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 MCE-00 EB-08 L-03
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R 190736Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1768
INFO AMEMBASSY SANA
USMTM RIYADH
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T JIDDA 2948

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, YE, SA, US
SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF SAUDI AIRCRAFT TO YAR

REF: STATE 92308, JIDDA 2859

1. OFFICIAL IN MODA FOREIGN PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT TOLD
POL COUN ON APRIL 17 THAT SAG WANTED TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY
WITH TRANSFER OF THE FOUR F-5B'S TO YAR AND THAT LETTER
WAS ON ITS WAY THROUGH CHANNELS TO EMBASSY REQUESTING FINAL
AUTHORIZATION. LETTER DATED 9 JUMAD AWAL 1398 (APRIL 16,
1978) AND SIGNED BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRINCE SULTAN HAS
NOW BEEN RECEIVED BY EMBASSY, RENEWING REQUEST FOR TRANS-
FER AND ASKING THAT WE CONVEY THE REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.

2. IN REGARD TO AGUSTA BELL HELICOPTERS FOR YAR, FOREIGN
PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAID THAT REQUEST FOR
AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER HELICOPTERS WAS ALSO ON ITS
WAY TO USG THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS AND THAT MODA
WOULD APPRECIATE SPEEDY U.S. ACTION. SAG WISHES TO TRANS-
FER THREE HELICOPTERS BY END OF JUNE. HANGARS WILL BE

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COMPLETED IN YEMEN FOR THESE HELICOPTERS AND SAG DOES NOT WANT
TO LEAVE THEM UNOCCUPIED AND GIVE OPPOR-
TUNITY FOR SOVEIT AIRCRAFT TO BE MOVED INTO THEM.

3. OFFICIAL SAID MODA WOULD BE DISCUSSING SUBJECT OF
TRAINING FOR YAR PILOTS WITH CHUSMTM ON APRIL 22.
SAG WISHES TO TRAIN 15 YAR PILOTS ON F-5. HOWEVER, IT

PREFERS TO PAY TO HAVE THESE PILOTS TRAINED IN U.S.,
RATHER THAN IN SAUDI ARABIA. REASONS FOR THIS WERE THAT
(A) THERE WERE NO VACANCIES IN SAUDI PROGRAM, (B)
SAG DOES NOT WANT YEMINI PILOTS TO SEE SAUDI F-5'S
WITH THEIR SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT AND COMPARE THEM
WITH VERSION OF F-5 YAR IS GETTING, (C) SAG IS CONCERNED
THAT SECURITY OF SAUDI F-5'S MAY BE COMPROMISED, AND
MOST IMPORTANT (D) SAG WANTS TO FURNISH OPPORTUNITY
FOR YAR PILOTS TO BE INFLUENCED BY U.S. OFFICIAL STRESSED
THIS LAST POINT, SAYING THAT PILOTS TRAINED IN U.S. WOULD
BE VERY USEFUL IN COUNTERING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN YAR.
HE NOTED THAT YARG HAD WANTED TO SEND EIGHT OF THESE
PILOTS TO USSR FOR TRAINING ON MIG-21 AND HE THOUGHT
SOME OF 15 PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS MAY EVEN HAVE STUDIED
IN USSR. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT MODA WANTED TO BEGIN
ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR YAR PILOTS
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN PREPARATION FOR THEIR EVENTUAL
F-5 TRAINING IN U.S. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT MODA DID NOT
WANT THEM IN NORTHROP PROGRAM AND PROPOSED PUTTING THEM
AUGUSTA BELL PROGRAM INSTEAD. MODA WOULD ACQUIRE
SPACES IN AB PROGRAM BY PUTTING APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF
SAUDI STUDENTS IN NORTHROP PROGRAM. WHILE YEMENI STU-
DENTS WERE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM, PAPERWORK COULD
BE PROCESSED FOR THEIR TRANSFER TO U.S.

4. OFFICIAL SAID EVEN MORE PRESSING WAS MATTER OF TWO
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YAR PILOTS WHO HAVE JUST GRADUATED FROM KING FAISAL
AIR ACADEMY. THEY ARE CURRENTLY ON LEAVE IN YEMEN, BUT
MODA NEEDS TO FIND WAY TO BEGIN F-5 TRAINING FOR THEM
IMMEDIATELY. MODA WANTS TO SEND THEM TO U.S.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT
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Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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